

# The future of Jakarta?

Dutch design team wins contest to envision the future of our fair city by imagining *kampungs* in the sky



**Jakarta's new skyline** Vertical *kampungs* would change the face of Jakarta

Yeah, there are a lot of reasons to love Jakarta, but let's be honest, there are just as many reasons to hate it; traffic, pollution, and poverty are probably at the top of most people's lists. These problems are so big they often seem impossible to solve. But recently a competition was held to see if anybody out there was brave enough (or audacious enough) to come up with a way to solve all of these problems through smart urban planning.

The contest, called 'Gotong Royong: Open City', was organized by the International Architectural Biennial Rotterdam 2009 (IABR) and the Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (Indonesian Institute of Architects Jakarta Chapter). The IABR is one of the premiere gatherings for critical, creative and progressive thinking on architecture and urbanism. This year the IABR has taken the theme of 'Open Cities: Designing Coexistence'. The 'Gotong Royong' (which is usually translated into English as 'reciprocity' or 'mutual assistance') contest asked participants to apply the 'Open City' philosophy by taking a part of Jakarta and designing an urban planning solution to the problems plaguing that area. After receiving and reviewing dozens of entries, the judging panel, made up of distinguished architects and urban designers, declared the project 'Jakarta bersih!' the first place winner.

'Jakarta bersih!' was dreamed up by a team from 'NUNC architecten', a Dutch architecture group. The team joined the contest due to their interest in Asian metropolises and Jakarta in particular. One of their team members, Steven Brunsmann, had spent time working at an architecture firm in Bandung, and he

often traveled to Jakarta and saw first-hand the miserable living conditions in some of the *kampung* areas of Jakarta. But at the same time he and his team also saw the beauty in these resilient self-contained communities.

Although they acknowledge the political and economic difficulties their idea would face might make it hard to realize, the NUNC team sees their vertical *kampung* idea as a way to not only solve many of the problems facing Jakarta but also of preserving the unique nature and culture of *kampungs*.

For their winning entry, the NUNC team won 1500 Euros and an invitation to present an expanded version of their project at the IABR expo in Rotterdam later this year. In addition they were able to attend an awards ceremony here in Jakarta last May. While they enjoyed their time in the Big Durian, they say it was their site visits to *kampungs* that had the greatest impact. Brunsmann says, 'The density, complexity and village-feel within the *kampungs* really inspired us a lot.'

Is 'Jakarta bersih!' really the future of Jakarta or just a pipe dream? Only time will tell, but it's clear that something drastic will need to be done soon if the capitol is to overcome its many mounting problems. Big problems require big solutions, and sometimes giving people a vision of the future is enough to get the ball rolling. Here's to the dreamers...

*To see all of the winning entries and learn more about the 'Gotong Royong' contest and the IABR 2009, visit: <http://ddm.caad.ed.ac.uk/gotongroyongcity/>*

## Jakarta bersih!

### The basic idea

The Vertical Cleaning Kampung consists of a two-sided high-rise building (dwellings and billboard) on top of a waste processing plant. The building expresses the two faces of Jakarta and demonstrates how these two can mutually benefit each other: the essence of *gotong royong*.

Within the structure, residents will occupy, define, and finish the houses themselves with recycled products. Sanitary units, medical services, a school, a mosque, and an administration office would be implemented and enable the high-rise building to function like a *kampung* community.





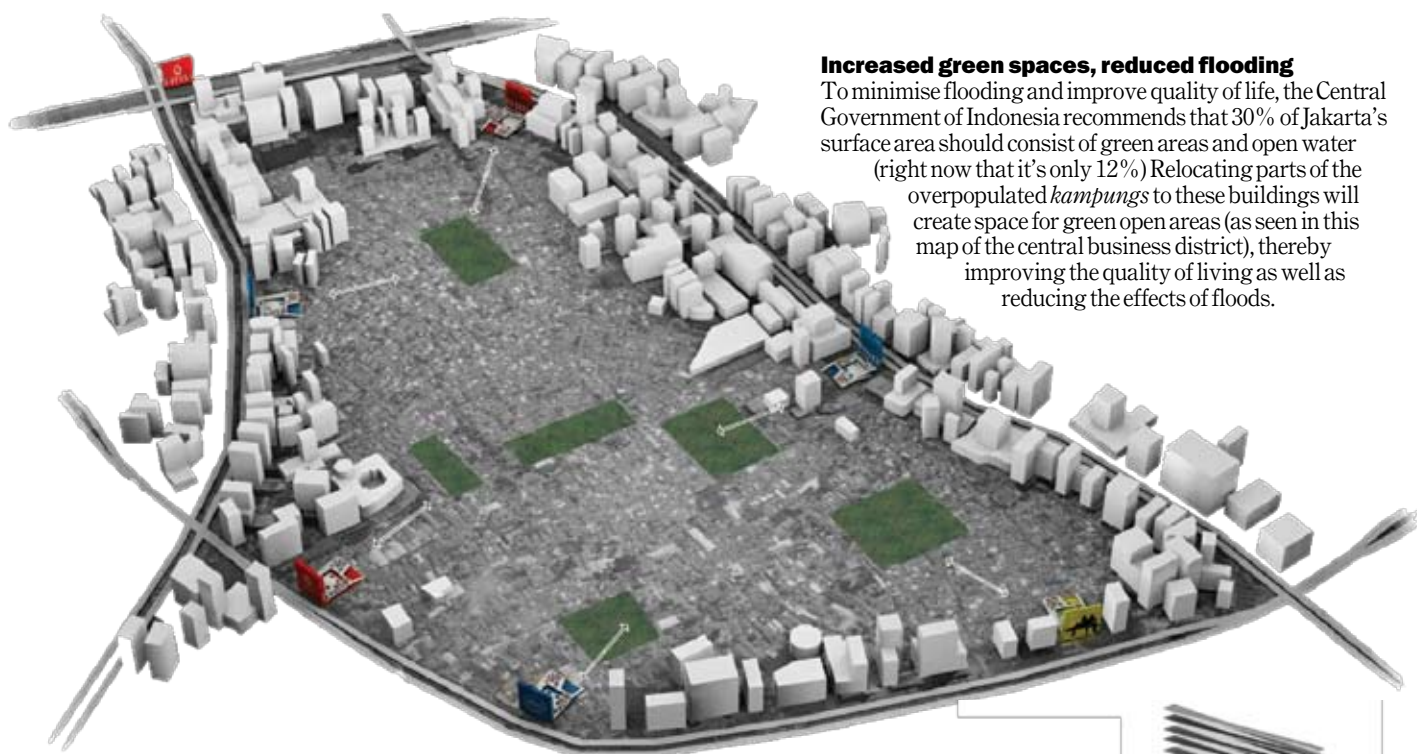
### Waste reduction and recycling with economic benefits

Jakarta produces 28,000 m<sup>3</sup> of waste per day. Without any efficient garbage processing system, much of this waste is left to create unhygienic living conditions and congest waterways, leading to flooding.

By recycling, composting and re-using, the Vertical Cleaning Kampung can reduce Jakarta's waste volume. Waste processing provides jobs and income for the poor and triggers entrepreneurship. The waste factory at the base of the building integrates platforms for traditional and informal trade.



**NUNC Architecten** The winners of the Gotong Royong: Open City contest for 'Jakarta bersih'



### Increased green spaces, reduced flooding

To minimise flooding and improve quality of life, the Central Government of Indonesia recommends that 30% of Jakarta's surface area should consist of green areas and open water (right now that it's only 12%). Relocating parts of the overpopulated *kampung*s to these buildings will create space for green open areas (as seen in this map of the central business district), thereby improving the quality of living as well as reducing the effects of floods.



### Commercial viability

Housing for the poor can be partially paid for by the commercial billboard on the CBD side: commerce as charity.

Furthermore, world aid companies, multinationals, foreign governments or development organizations could adopt a building and contribute to a cleaner, safer more durable future for Jakarta.

